

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 771

By McCord

A RESOLUTION to honor and applaud Head Coach Gary Rankin and the Alcoa High School football team on capturing the TSSAA Class 2A State Championship.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful high school teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to the State of Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, led by Head Coach Gary Rankin, the Alcoa High School football team is one such commendable team that achieved an extraordinary level of success during the 2007 season, establishing an impressive record of fourteen wins against only one loss and winning an unprecedented fourth consecutive BlueCross Bowl Class 2A State Championship Game; and

WHEREAS, the Alcoa Tornadoes rolled through the playoffs by prevailing over the powerhouse teams of Sweetwater (49-0), Christian Academy of Knoxville (56-21), Gatlinburg-Pittman (59-36), and Donelson Christian Academy (38-0) in a juggernaut-like drive to the state championship game in Murfreesboro; and

WHEREAS, the Tornadoes completed their phenomenal season by beating Goodpasture in the BlueCross Bowl by the score of 35-3, thereby capturing the team's fourth consecutive state football championship and their ninth overall; and

WHEREAS, former National Coach of the Year, Gary Rankin, in only his second season as head coach of the Tornadoes, has won his sixth state title; in commenting on his impressive achievement, Coach Rankin said that he couldn't recall another team like this one in two decades of coaching; and

WHEREAS, this Herculean effort was led by the outstanding individual performances of Randall Cobb, named BlueCross Bowl Class 2A Offensive MVP, who led the way for the Tornadoes with three first-half touchdowns and helped construct a 21-0 halftime lead; Tyler Robinson, who earned the BlueCross Bowl Class 2A Defensive MVP Award; and Troy Hodge, who contributed 74 yards, with an impressive 5.3 yards per carry average; and

WHEREAS, Alcoa's explosive offense amassed an incredible 630 points during its 15-game season, an average of 42 points per game, with 237 of those points scored in the playoffs; and

WHEREAS, Alcoa's stingy defense allowed only 182 points to be scored by opponents throughout the season, an average of only 12.13 points per game; and

WHEREAS, the dedication, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young men not only made possible a successful and memorable football season, but also surely point toward success in their future endeavors; and

WHEREAS, displaying great sportsmanship and outstanding character, the members of the Alcoa High School football team conducted themselves in a manner appropriate to the integrity of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee takes great pride in the tremendous accomplishments of those student athletes who have excelled both on the field and in the classroom; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Head Coach Gary Rankin and the 2007 Alcoa High School football team on winning the 2007 TSSAA Class 2A State Football Title.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.